GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:796
ANSWERED ON:21.02.2003
FOOD FOR POOR
VSM (RETD.) COL. CHOUDHARY

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned `Desperate villagers ready to fight to stave off hunger` appearing in the Times of India dated 14 January, 2003;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have collected necessary data of States which have failed toimplement Supreme Court directions to provide cooked meals of 300 calories with 8 to 12 grams of protein in all Government and Government aided primary schools; and

(d) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken to ensure implementation of Supreme Court directions by all the State Governments?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA)

(a)&(b) : No such news item has been seen in the New Delhi edition of `The Times of India` on 14th January, 2003.

(c): Cooked meals are being provided in eleven States/UTs namely, Chhatishgarh, Gujarat,Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Andaman & Nicobar, Pondicherry, Dadra Nagar Haveli, Delhi,Chandigarh and Andhra Pradesh. This apart, cooked meals are served in 89 tribal blocks of Madhya Pradesh, all blocks of Kalahandi, Bolangir & Koraput (KBK) districts and 74 Integrated Tribal Development Authority (ITDA) blocks of non-KBK districts of Orissa, 7 districts of Karnataka and 1250 Schools of West Bengal. Except the above mentioned States/UTs, only foodgrain is supplied to the eligible School Children by the remaining States/UTs.

(d): The Ministry of Human Resource Development had taken up the issue with the State Governments/UTs.